

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 31 (twice amended) as follows:

31. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

developing an electrostatic latent image on an image forming body employing a developing agent composed of flattened spheroidal toner particles to form a toner image;

transferring the toner image formed on the image forming body onto a transfer material;  
and

fixing the toner image on the transfer material by a fixing device having a fixing member  
provided with a heat source therein and a pressing member,

wherein the flattened spheroidal toner particles satisfy the following conditions:

$r_2/r_1$  is not less than 0.6 and not more than 1.0;

$d/r_2$  is not less than 0.1 and not more than 0.5;

$r_2$  is not less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and not more than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

$r_1$  is not less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and not more than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein  $r_1$  represents an average length of a major axis of each of the flattened toner particles,  $r_2$  represents an average length of a minor axis of each of the flattened toner particles, and  $d$  represents an average thickness of each of the flattened toner particles, wherein said fixing step comprises:

forming an electric field in the fixing device in such a manner that a surface perpendicular to a direction of the thickness of each of the flattened toner particles comes into contact with a surface of the transfer material; and

fixing the flattened toner particles attached to the transfer material thereon while applying pressure to the transfer material.